

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 5-13, 15, 16, and 19 are amended; Claims 3 and 4 are canceled; and Claim 20 is added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-15 were objected to; Claims 1-3, 9, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,035,037 to Chaney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,701 to Slattery; and Claims 4-8 and 10-14 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-8 and 10-14. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 16 are amended to recite the features of allowable Claim 4 and Claim 20 is added to recite the features of allowable Claim 12 in independent form. Further, independent Claim 19 is amended to recite method steps corresponding to features of allowable Claim 12. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 16, 19, and 20, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

With respect to the claim objections, the claims are amended by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

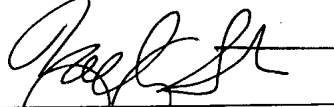
With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-3, 9, and 15-19, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), this rejection is rendered moot by the amendment discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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